



WHEN THE SUPER HEROES NEED HELP, THEY CALL...

CONTINUES...
INTERMINABLY

INFERNO

DAMAGE CONTROL

#4 IN
A 4-ISSUE
LIMITED
SERIES!

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THIS LOVELY OLD HOUSE WAS ONCE THE SITE OF PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED YOUNGSTERS. FOR YEARS IT SERVED AS HOME AND SECRET HEADQUARTERS TO THE MUTANT ADVENTURERS KNOWN AS -- THE X-MEN.

THE PEW WHO KNEW THE OLD HOUSE'S SECRET FONDLY REFERRED TO IT AS THE "X-MANSION."

BUT NOW, AS A RESULT OF THE CATASTROPHIC CONFLAGRATION KNOWN AS THE INFERNO...*

... THE X-MANSION IS NO MORE.

* SEE X-MEN # 240-243, EDITOR'S NOTE.

THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO WOULD MOST MOURN THE PASSING OF THIS PLACE ARE OCCUPIED WITH OTHER CONCERN'S.

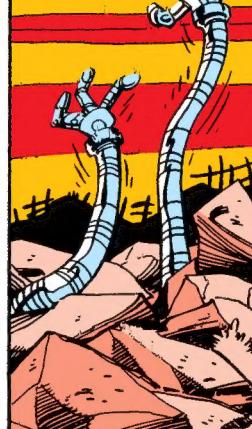
IN THE PRESS OF THESE DIFFICULT TIMES, NONE HAVE THE INCLINATION TO REBUILD. THESE DAYS, THERE ISN'T EVEN A SPARE MOMENT TO SORT THROUGH THE RUBBLE.

FOR THE MOMENT, THE MESS IS JUST GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF ITSELF.

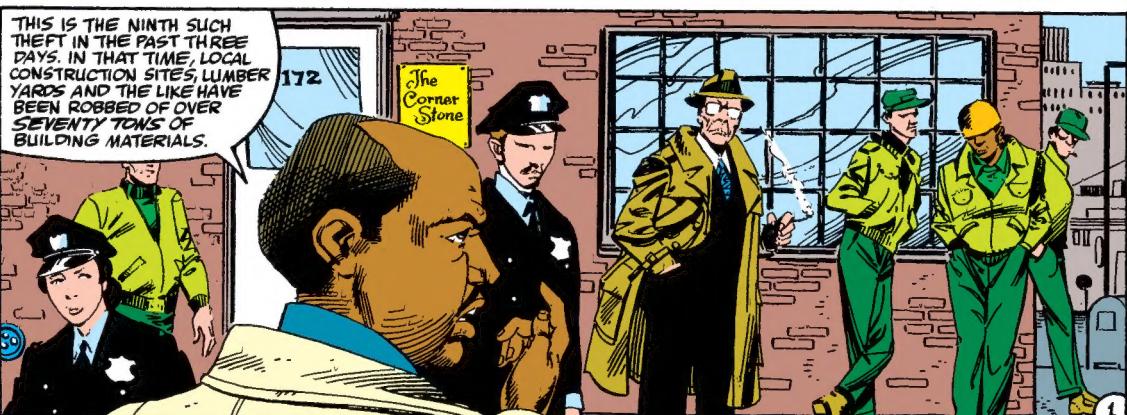
THREE DAYS LATER, AT "THE CORNERSTONE," A NEARBY BUILDING SUPPLY COMPANY...

...DON'T SCREW AROUND WITH ME, CAPTAIN. I WANT A FULL REPORT.

ALL RIGHT, COMMISSIONER. SOMETIME LAST NIGHT SOMEONE STOLE APPROXIMATELY SEVEN TONS OF GRAVEL, SLAG AND CEMENT FROM HERE.



THIS IS THE NINTH SUCH THEFT IN THE PAST THREE DAYS. IN THAT TIME, LOCAL CONSTRUCTION SITES, LUMBER YARDS AND THE LIKE HAVE BEEN ROBBED OF OVER SEVENTY TONS OF BUILDING MATERIALS.

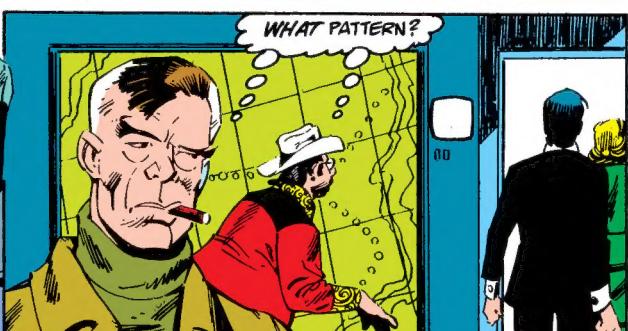
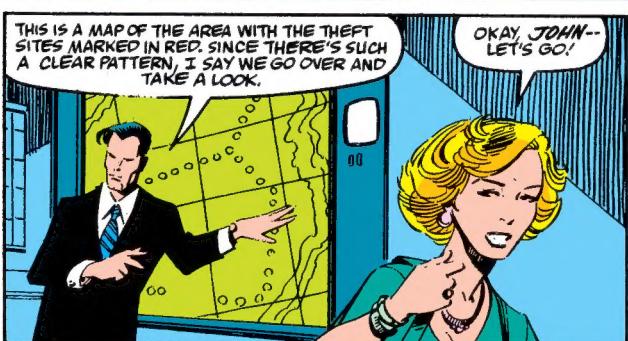
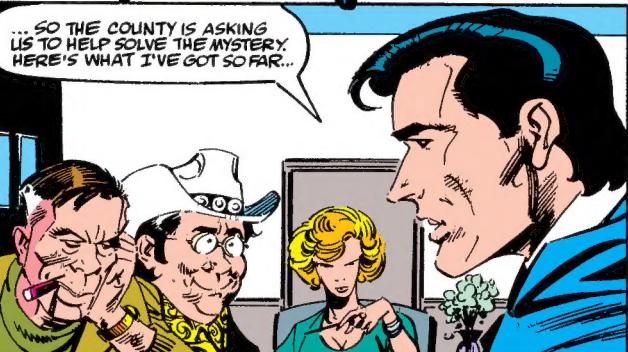
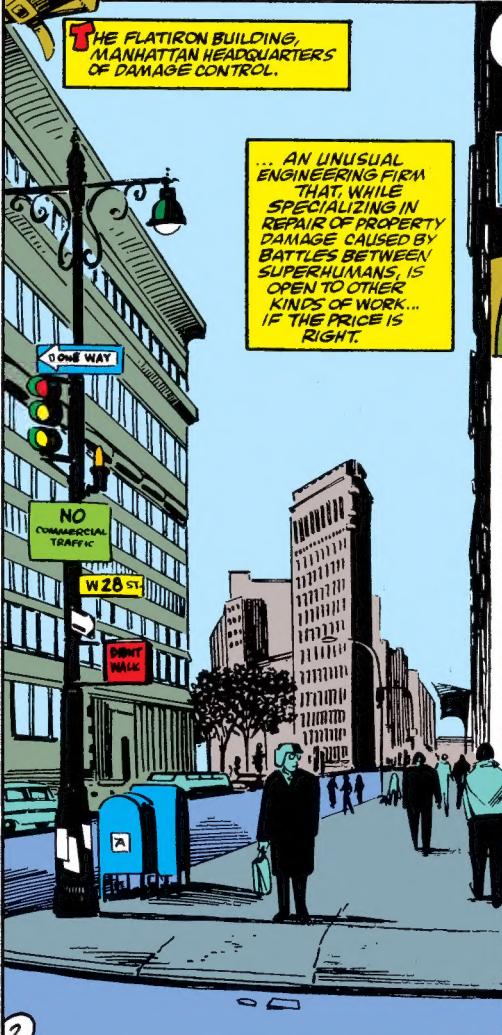


WE'VE GOT TO SOLVE THIS FAST. THE PEOPLE GETTING ROBBED ARE ANGRY AND POWERFUL. I'M GETTING HEAT FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE.

MAYBE DAMAGE CONTROL COULD HELP US OUT. THIS IS SORT OF UP THEIR ALLEY.

DAMAGE CONTROL?! DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT'LL COST TO USE THEM?

PLENTY. BUT IF WE DON'T FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON, IT'LL COST US OUR JOBS.



1407 GREYMAKIN LANE,
SALEM CENTER, NEW YORK.

ROBIN CHAPEL,
TRAFFIC
MANAGER.

NICE
PLACE.

LENNY BALLINGER,
HEAD FOREMAN.

YEAH, IT'S
ALL RIGHT.

GENE STRAUSSER,
RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT.

BART ROZUM,
COLLEGE INTERN.

JOHN PORTER,
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE.

ARE YOU
GUYS
KIDDING?
THIS PLACE
IS A
WRECK!

Stan Lee
PRESENTATION... STARRING
Demolition Control
...AND GUEST-STARRING...
THE UNCANNY
X-MEN
IN
"excessive farce"

DWAYNE
MCDOUFFIE
WRITER

ERNIE
COLON
PENCILER

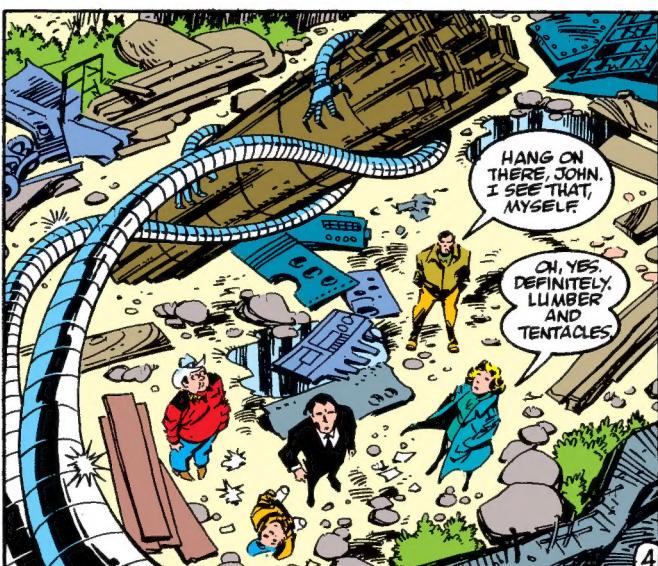
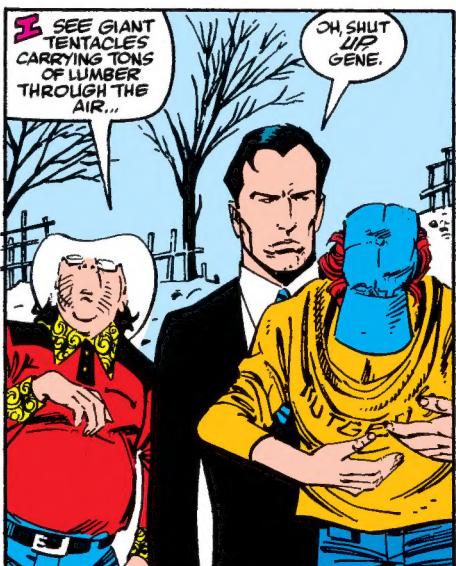
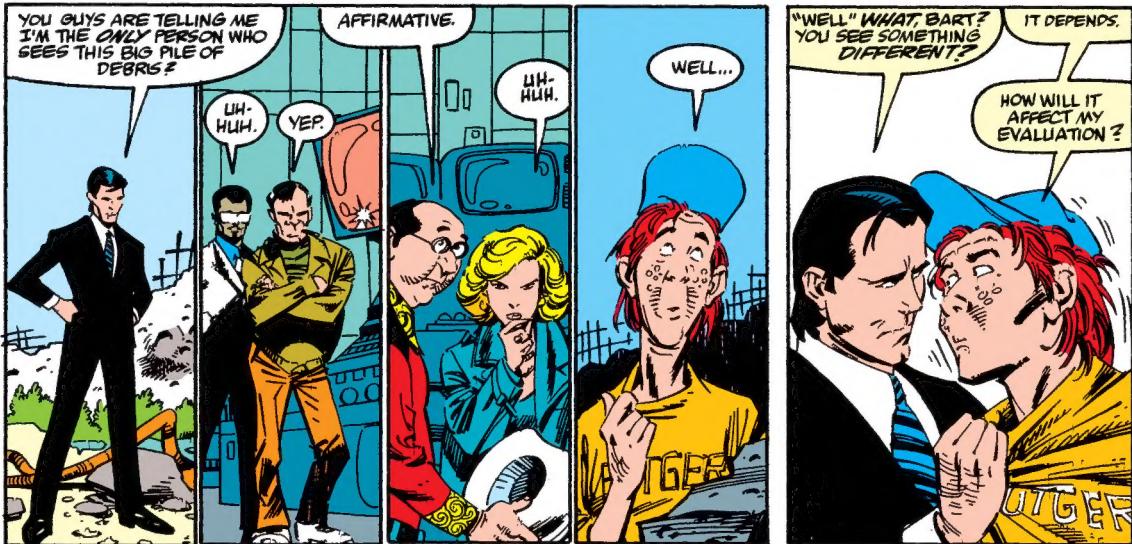
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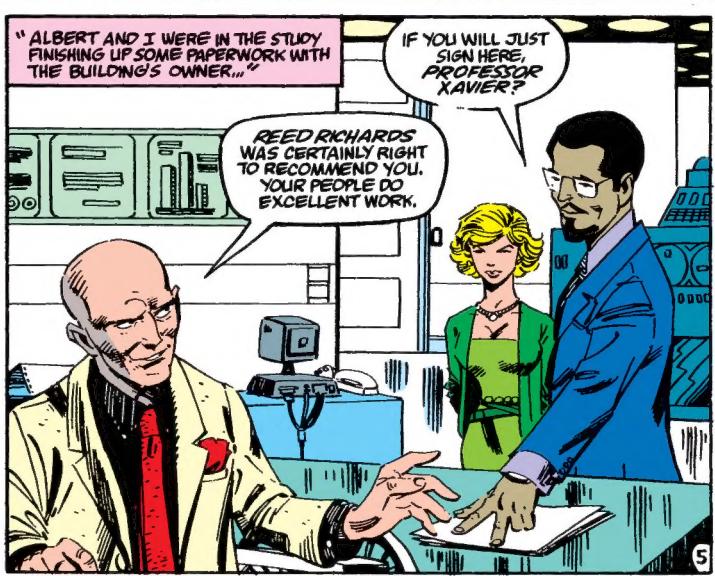
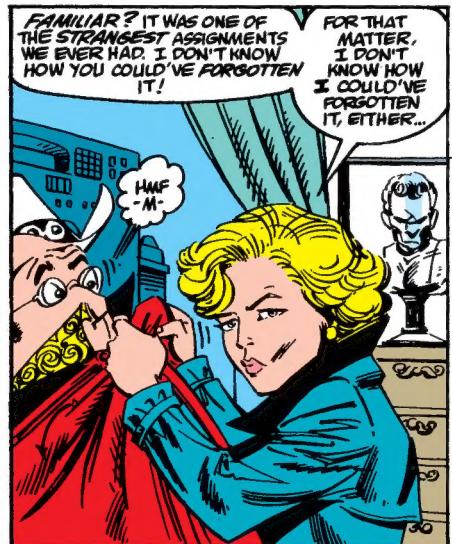
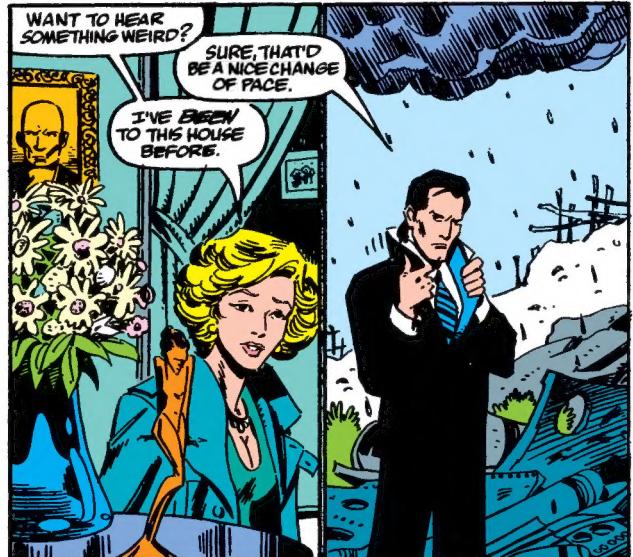
RICK
PARKER
LETTERER

JOHN
WELLINGTON
COLORIST

SID
JACOBSON
EDITOR

TOM
DEFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF





I'M GLAD YOU THINK SO. PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO OPEN AN ACCOUNT WITH US? I COULD OFFER YOU A DISCOUNT ON ALL OUR SERVICES.



THANK YOU, NO, MS. CHAPEL. MUCH OF OUR WORK HERE IS CONFIDENTIAL, AND AS DISCREET AS YOU ARE, I'D PREFER NOT TO LEAVE A PAPER TRAIL THAT COULD LINK THIS SCHOOL TO THE X-MEN.



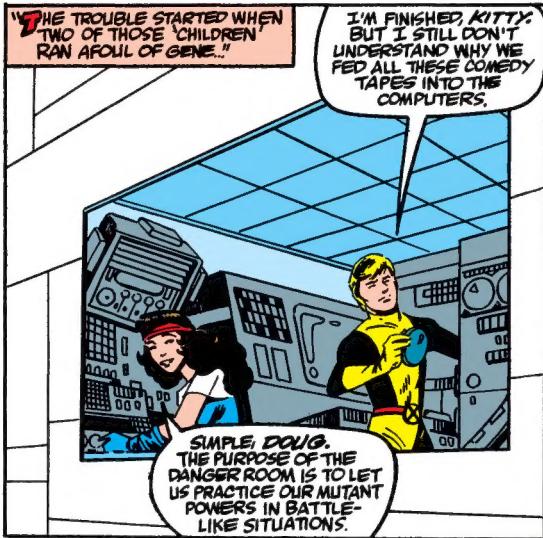
ALTHOUGH I MUST CONFESS THAT THE AMOUNT OF DAMAGE IN THIS HOUSE, BAD AS IT WAS, HAS WORSENED CONSIDERABLY SINCE THE CHILDREN MOVED IN...



"THE TROUBLE STARTED WHEN TWO OF THOSE 'CHILDREN' RAN AFoul OF GENE..."

I'M FINISHED, KITTY. BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY WE FEED ALL THESE COMEDY TAPES INTO THE COMPUTERS.

THE NEW SHI'AR TECHNOLOGY WE'VE INCORPORATED INTO THE ROOM* ALLOWS US TO PRACTICE AGAINST SIMULATIONS OF OUR ACTUAL FOES.



SIMPLE, DOUG. THE PURPOSE OF THE DANGER ROOM IS TO LET US PRACTICE OUR MUTANT POWERS IN BATTLE-LIKE SITUATIONS.

*A GIFT TO PROFESSOR X FROM THE EMPRESS OF AN ALIEN RACE BACK IN X-MEN #156-160. -- EDITOR



OOOOOOH! SOPHISTICATED HOLOGRAPHIC AND ROBOTIC TECHNOLOGY INTENDED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SIMULATION!

WHO...?

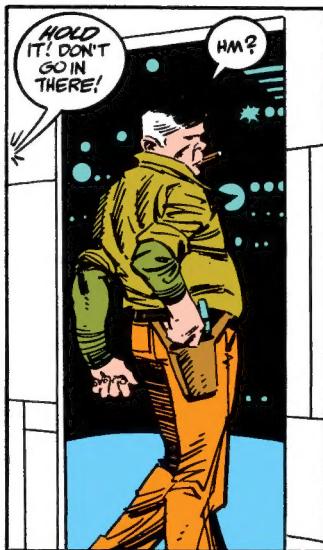
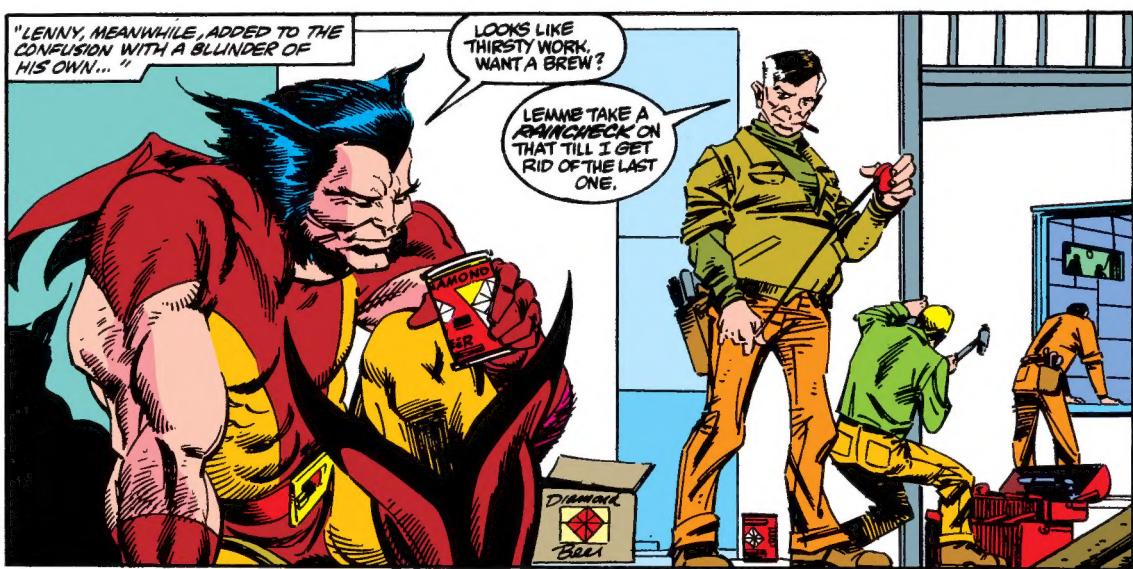
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE IN HERE. THIS STUFF IS SELF-REPAIRING!

I'LL BET WE CAN MAKE THIS DO SOME NEAT STUFF IF WE FIDDLE WITH THE OPERATING SYSTEM A BIT. ANYBODY GOT A SCREWDRIVER?

"LENNY, MEANWHILE, ADDED TO THE CONFUSION WITH A BLUNDER OF HIS OWN..."

LOOKS LIKE THIRSTY WORK. WANT A BREW?

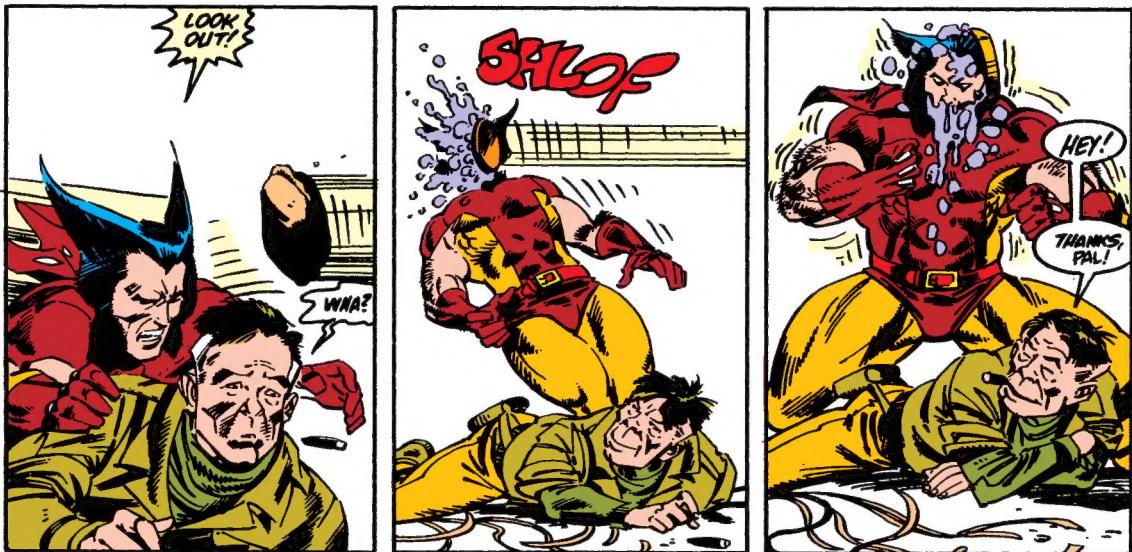
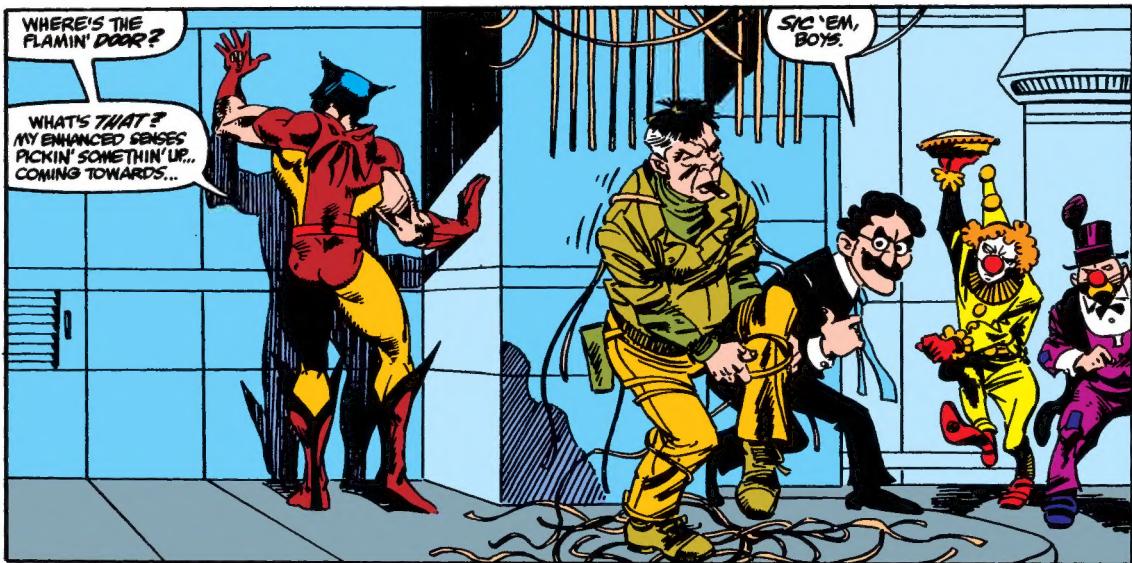
LEMMIE TAKE A RAINCHECK ON THAT TILL I GET RID OF THE LAST ONE.



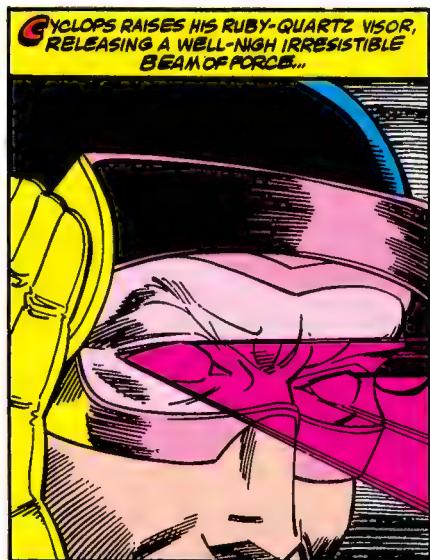
TRAINING SEQUENCE ACTIVATED---







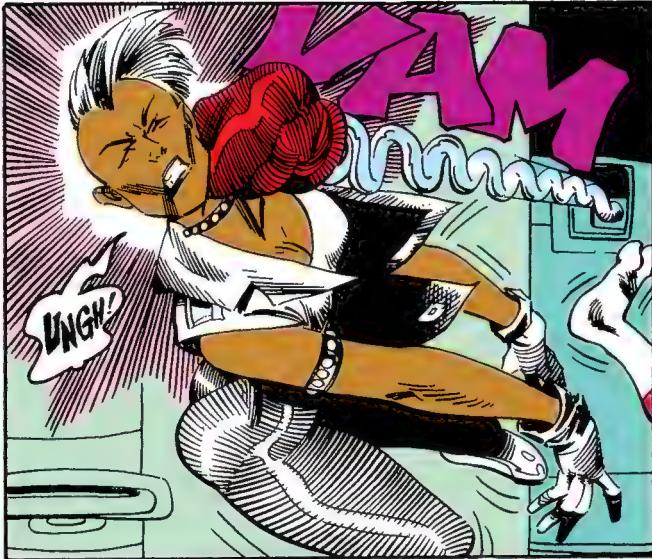


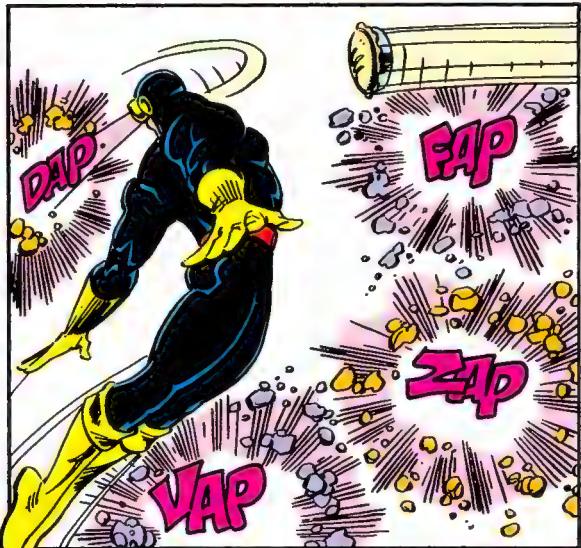
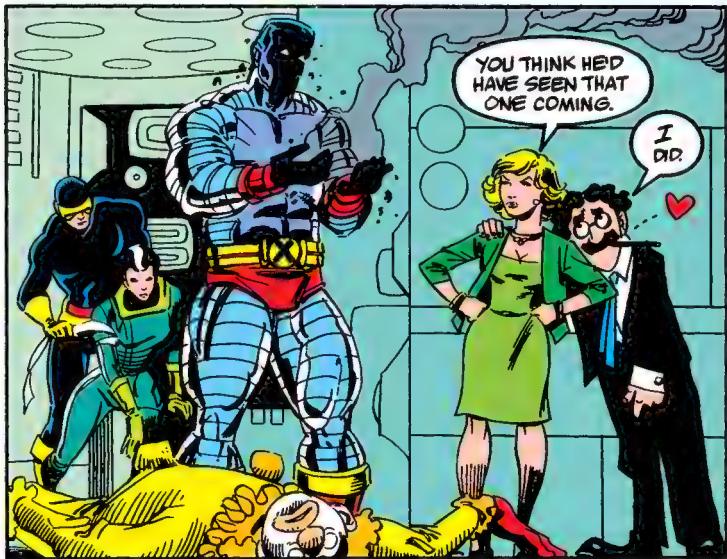






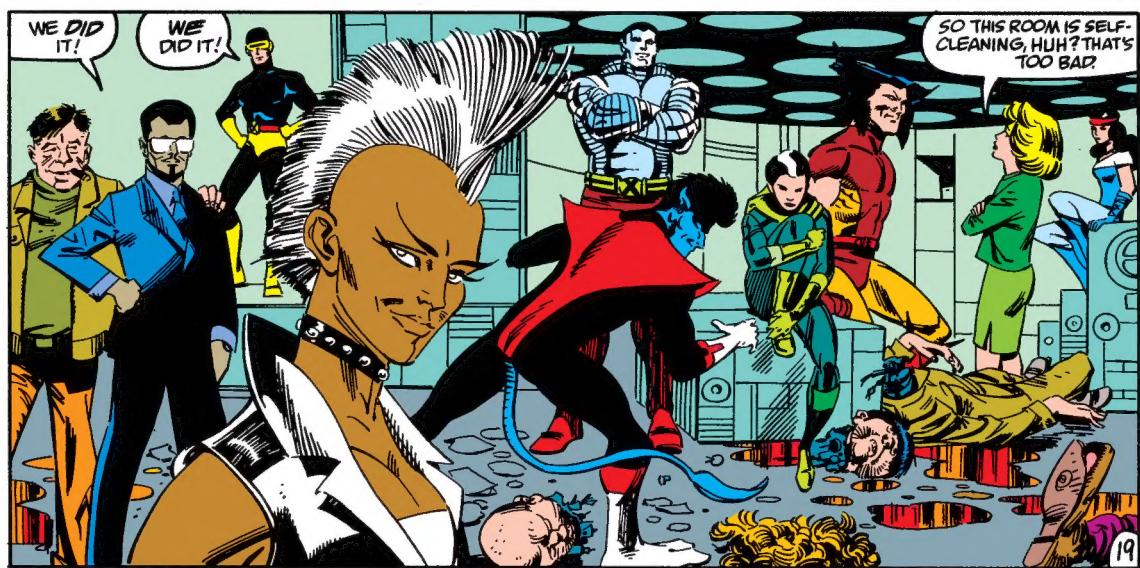
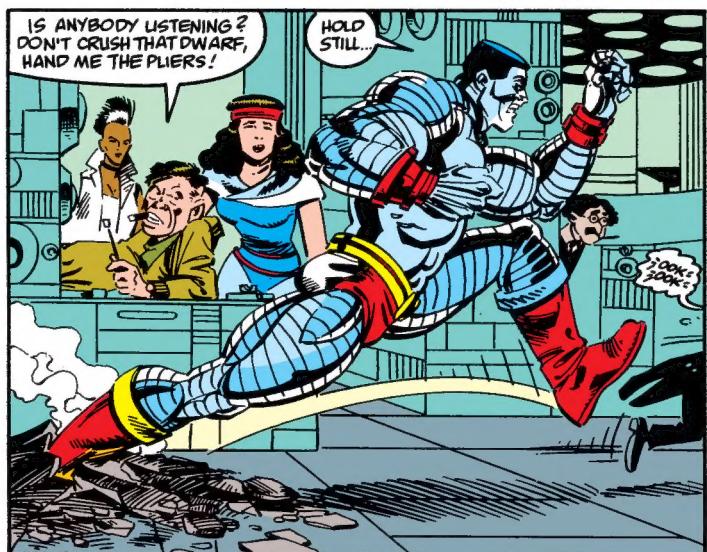
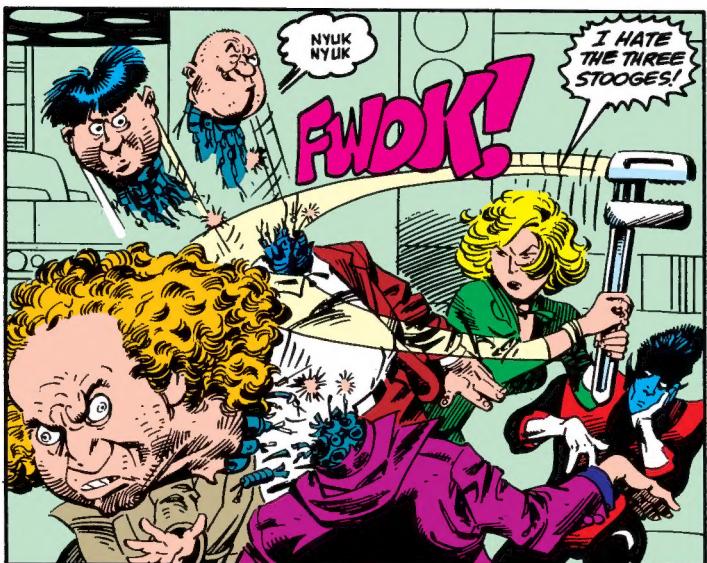


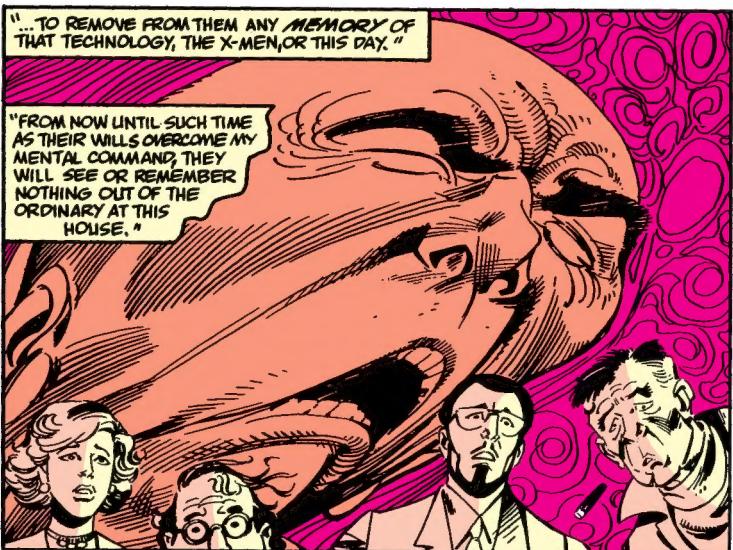
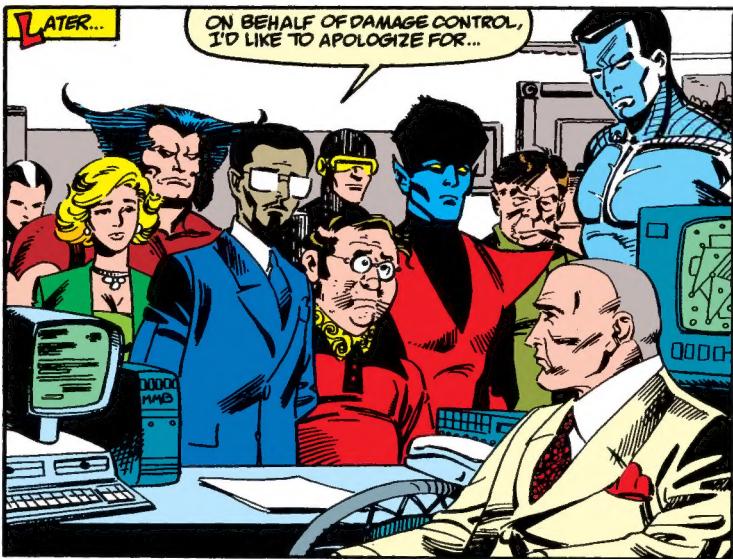


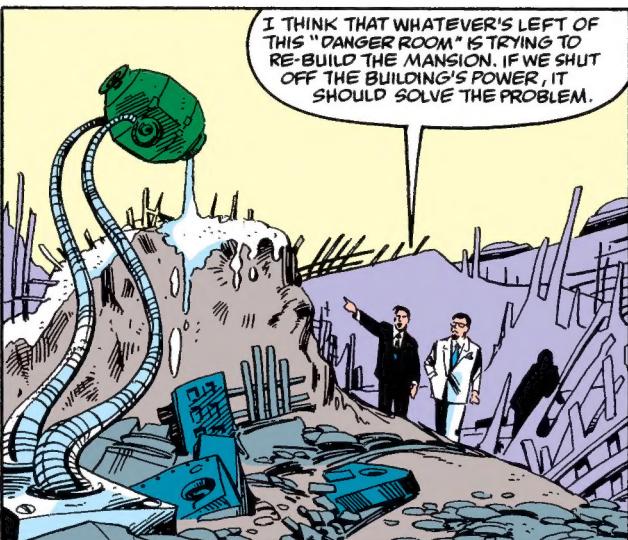












NEXT DAY, AT THE "CORNERSTONE."

WELL, YOU GUYS DID IT! EVERYTHING'S BACK IN PLACE ALL OVER TOWN. YOU SAVED MY JOB. I JUST WISH YOU'D TELL ME HOW.



CORNERSTONE

NO QUESTIONS ASKED. THAT WAS PART OF THE DEAL.

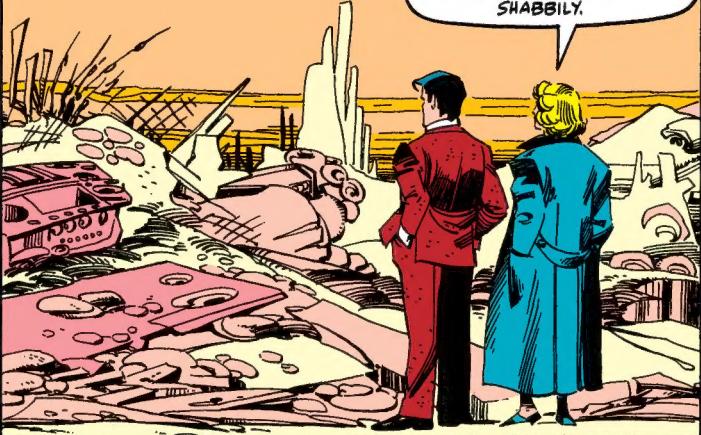
REST ASSURED. THE PROBLEM WON'T RECUR.

I GUESS THAT'LL HAVE TO DO.

...

LATER, BACK AT THE EX-MANSION...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WERE SO INSISTENT ON PROTECTING THE X-MEN FROM BEING IMPLICATED IN THE THEFTS. AFTER ALL, THEY TREATED US PRETTY SHABBILY.



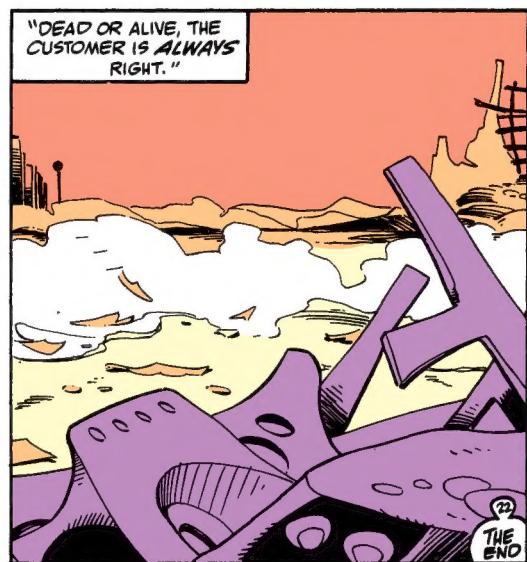
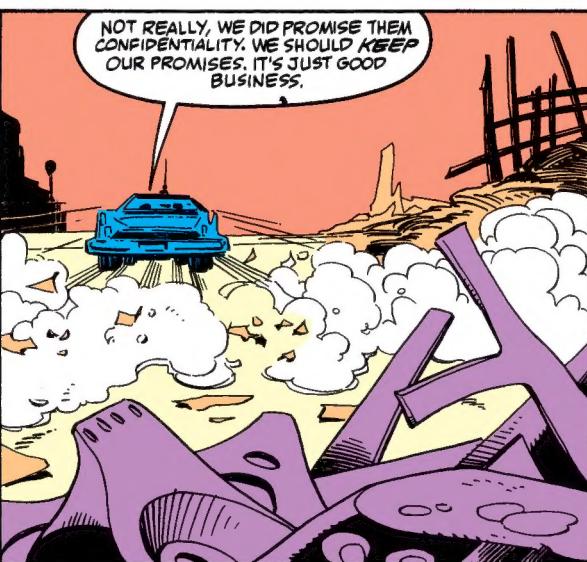
THE X-MEN DIED AS HEROES. * I DIDN'T WANT TO TARNISH THEIR REPUTATION.

THAT'S AWFULLY ALTRUISTIC OF YOU.

* JOHN, ALONG WITH MOST OF THE REST OF THE WORLD, BELIEVES THE X-MEN TO BE DEAD. SEE X-MEN #223 FOR DETAILS. - EDITOR.

NOT REALLY, WE DID PROMISE THEM CONFIDENTIALITY. WE SHOULD KEEP OUR PROMISES. IT'S JUST GOOD BUSINESS.

"DEAD OR ALIVE, THE CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS RIGHT."



SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!

THE END